

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04847 231812Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----231816Z 009242 /43
O 231718Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0791

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4847

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, GR, US
SUBJECT: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION NEGOTIATIONS:
NEXT STEPS

REF: A. STATE 117166, B. ATHENS 4749

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND KEY GOG OFFICIALS ARE ALL
TIED UP FOR TODAY AND THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS -- EXCEPT FOR
EMERGENCIES -- WITH IMPORT ANT VISIT OF ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER
ANDREOTTI AND HIS ENTOURAGE. THUS, I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THIS TIME FOR SOME FURTHER CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS AMONG OURSELVES BEFORE APPROACHING THE GREEKS AGAIN.
IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THOSE DIRECTING THESE NEGOTIATIONS IN
WASHINGTON TO HAVE AS ACCURATE AN UNDERSTANDING AS WE CAN CONVEY
ABOUT HOW KEY GREEK OFFICIALS WANT TO PROCEED WITH THESE NEGOTIATIONS
,
ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE
GOG ITSELF.

2. THE PRINCIPLE GREEK NEGOTIATORS, INCLUDING CHRYSOPATHIS AND
MACHERITSAS, WANT VERY MUCH TO RESUME THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON.
THEY REALLY DON'T CARE VERY MUCH WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04847 231812Z

ARE ASKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY OR CONTINUED ON A CLASSIFIED,
TIGHTLY-HELD, BEHIND-THE SCENES BASIS AS DURING THESE PAST
FEW WEEKS. TZOUNIS TENDS TO SUPPORT THEIR PREFERENCE AND VIEWS.
HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS HAVE ABSOLUTELY
INSISTED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE CONTINUED ON A CLASSIFIED,
BEHIND-THE-SCENES BASIS UNTIL THEY ARE CONCLUDED OR UNTIL
IT IS UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO BE CONCLUDED.

3. THUS, THE GOG EXPRESSED DESIRES TO RESUME IN ATHENS. THE GREEKS HAVE BECOME AWARE OF REPORTED DISSATISFACTION IN WASHINGTON (PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF THEIR CONTACTS IN LONDON -- I DON'T KNOW) WITH THEIR "SILLY" PRETENSE HERE IN GREECE THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, THAT CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS VIEW THIS MATTER QUITE DIFFERENTLY. FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS NOW THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LAMBASTED AND EXCORIATED IN GREECE EVERY TIME WE HAVE HAD A ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. ALL THE OPPOSITION LEADERS AND PRINCIPAL CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE FIELD DAYS IN ATTACKING CARAMANLIS FOR BEING ON THE VERGE OF GIVING AWAY NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND PATRIMONY TO AMERICAN AND NATO IMPERIALISTS AND WARMONGERS. LISTS OF QUESTIONS ARE TABLED IN THE PARLIAMENT, AND EDITORIAL WRITERS AND POLITICAL COLUMNISTS PLY THEIR TRADE WITH POISONED PENS. NEGOTIATIONS, WITH NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIVES ON BOTH SIDES, PROCEED AT A SNAIL'S PACE AND WITH PLENTY OF BACKBITING AND GRANDSTAND QUARTERBACKING.

4. CARAMANLIS SIMPLY WON'T HAVE THAT ANY MORE. HE HAS SAID THAT AT SOME POINT AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE FINISHED HE WILL HAVE A DEBATE IN THE GREEK PARLIAMENT AND DEFEND THEM. BUT HE ONLY WANTS TO DO THAT ONCE MORE. HE DOES NOT WANT A CONTINUING, RUNNING, BRUISING BATTLE WITH HIS CRITICS ON THE ONE HAND ALL THE TIME HIS GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO FINISH THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH US ON THE OTHER. THUS, WHAT MAY SEEM VERY "SILLY" IN WASHINGTON IS A CONSIDERATION OF RATHER CONSIDERABLE DIMENSION TO HIM AND BITSIOS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 04847 231812Z

5. SINCE THE THREE REMAINING ISSUES ARE PRIMARILY FINANCIAL AND THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO US, CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS, IN MY OPINION, WILL INSIST ON HAVING A PRETTY CLEAR IDEA OF THE NATURE OF OUR RESPONSES BEFORE AGREEING TO ANY FORMAL, PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. NOR, IN MY OPINION, WILL THEY ACCEDE TO THEIR SUBORDINATES' DESIRE TO HAVE SUCH A ROUND IN WASHINGTON -- FOR THE PRECISE REASONS INDICATED ABOVE -- AND FOR THE PRECISE REASONS WE WANT THEM THERE. THEY ARE AFRAID OF HARMFUL LEAKS IN WASHINGTON, AS A RESULT OF TOO MANY U.S. OFFICIALS BEING INVOLVED IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND TOO MUCH CORRIDOR AND ELEVATOR TALK. NOR WOULD THEY BE ABLE TO KEEP SECRET HERE THAT GREEK OFFICIALS WENT TO WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LITTLE FLURRY OF PRESS SPECULATION WHEN OUR OWN THREE EXPERTS FIRST CAME TO ATHENS AROUND APRIL 12, IT QUICKLY FADED AND THERE HAS BEEN NO PROBLEM ON THIS SCORE HERE FOR WEEKS.

6. WE WILL, OF COURSE, APPROACH THE GREEKS ALONG THE LINES OF THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED PARAS FOUR AND FIVE OF REF. A. IF

THAT IS WHAT THE DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO DO. HOWEVER, I WANT THESE ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED FIRST. I WOULD SUGGEST, AS AN ALTERNATIVE, THAT WE LET A WEEK OR TWO GO BY BEFORE APPROACHING THE GREEKS ON THIS SUBJECT AGAIN, AND AT THAT TIME I SHOULD PROBABLY GO DIRECTLY TO BITSIOS WITH WHATEVER PROPOSAL WE HAVE. THIS WILL PROVIDE A VALUABLE PERIOD IN WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE HOW WE INTEND TO WRAP UP THESE THREE REMAINING ISSUES, AND WE CAN TAILOR OUR SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO THE GREEK SIDE AS TO WHERE, WHEN AND HOW WE FINISH THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE RESULTS OF THAT REVIEW. I AM AFRAID THAT IF WE PUSH NOW FOR GREEK AGREEMENT TO A FINAL NEGOTIATING PHASE ON A FORMAL, PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED BASIS -- BEFORE THEY HAVE A FAIRLY CLEAR IDEA OF HOW WE PROPOSE TO FINISH -- WE ARE SETTING OURSELVES UP FOR A TURNDOWN WHETHER OR NOT WE WOULD AGREE TO A COUPLE OF DAYS OF PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS JUST PRIOR TO JUNE 20 AND WHETHER SUCH PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON OR ATHENS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ATHENS 04847 231812Z

7. WE WILL AWAIT NEW INSTRUCTIONS OR A RECONFIRMATION OF THOSE CONTAINED REF. A. BEFORE PROCEEDING.

KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS04847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770183-0693
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770530/aaaaazod.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28d9428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 117166, 77 ATHENS 4749
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2417177
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION NEGOTIATIONS: NEXT STEPS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28d9428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009